

# THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 87 NO. 8 OCTOBER 2002

FOUNDED 1917

## Vote Yes on Oakland Measure DD

CALIFORNIA  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

SEP 30 2002

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**T**he Golden Gate Audubon Society urges all of its members who live in Oakland to vote YES on Measure DD, the Oakland Trust for Clean Water, Safe Parks, when you vote on November 5, 2002. Measure DD brings desperately needed funds for Oakland stream and wetland restoration, for improvements to Lake Merritt's water quality and the Lake Merritt Channel, and for improved public access to the Oakland shoreline. We are particularly proud of our role in having money allocated for wetland restoration in the Lake Merritt Channel.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of GGAS members John Bowers, Patty St. Louis and Caroline Kim, the Oakland Estuary Policy Plan, a component of the City's General Plan, includes language for restoring wetlands in the Channel. When Bond Measure DD was first proposed there was no specific funding for such wetland restoration. Caroline Kim, who attended many of these meetings, recognized this lack and brought it to the attention of Oakland City Councilperson Danny Wan. Councilman Wan immediately agreed to insert the appropriate and necessary language into the bond measure.

Why is wetland restoration important? Over 75 percent of our sport and commercial fish depend upon wetlands for survival. Wetland vegetation and wetland soils absorb contaminants from both surrounding water and air, thus helping to provide us with clean air and clean water. Wetlands provide critical habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl and even many terrestrial bird species that forage for food in wetland vegetation at some point in their life cycle. Acre for acre, wetland vegetation produces more biomass and more oxygen than a field of wheat. As you can see, it's hard to find a

more important habitat type than wetlands. As an added Audubon bonus, the Lake Merritt Channel is one of the few places we find Barrow's Goldeneye in the Central Bay and wetland restoration should greatly benefit this species.

So we are very gratified, indeed, to have wetland restoration included in Measure DD. Our thanks to Councilman Wan and GGAS members Caroline Kim and John Bowers for making this excellent bond measure even better. Please vote for Measure DD. 🐦

### **Vote yes on Proposition 50, The Clean Water And Coastal Protection Bond 2002**

The Golden Gate Audubon Society urges you to Vote Yes! on State Proposition 50 this November. Prop 50 provides essential funds for water conservation and recycling and also much needed money for the acquisition of extremely critical coastal habitats. At least \$200 million will be available for coastal land acquisitions in the Bay Area.

Protecting critical wildlife habitat is essential if we hope to preserve our Bay Area wildlife. The only way to really do this in our ever-growing Bay Area is to acquire these habitats and put them into public ownership specifically for wildlife preservation and human nature-recreation purposes. Proposition 50 will make this possible. Please vote yes for Prop 50 this November. 🐦



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Education: Allan Ridley

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\*Board of Directors '03

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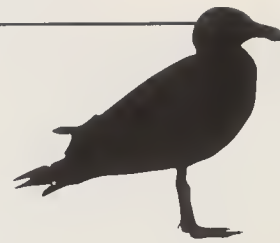
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# FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



## Hawk Hill

### Saturday, October 5

Marin County Hawk Hill, in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, is the premiere hawk watch location in the West. Each fall about 20,000 hawks fly over Hawk Hill and over 200 volunteers engage in hawk counting, banding, telemetry and other research programs. Enjoy the majesty of the various species of hawks that migrate through the Bay Area with Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Day Leader Stefanie Arthur. Bring lunch and liquids, sunscreen, hat. Layered clothing advisable. Trip will end around 2:00. Meet at 10 a.m. at the middle platform of Hawk Hill (Battery 129). Coming from Marin County take the last exit before Golden Gate bridge. Turn left at stop sign, then right into the GGNRA, on Conzelman Rd. Drive to top of hill and park. Walk up to Hawk Hill via the gated fire road. From San Francisco take the first exit after the bridge which is Alexander. Turn left, drive under the freeway. Turn left and then right into the GGNRA. You will be on Conzelman Rd. Parking limited so come early and carpool if possible. Leader: Stefanie Arthur 415.587.9282.

## Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco

### Sunday, October 6, November 3

Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-

habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. GGAS co-leaders: Allan Ridley, Rick Ferrick; Strybing Arboretum Docents: Helen McKenna, Linda Lyons. 415.566.3241.

## San Mateo Coast

### Saturday, October 12

We plan on birding at Pescadero in the morning and Año Nuevo in the afternoon. We will look for migrants, shorebirds and seabirds, including Marbled Murrelet and Black-vented Shearwater. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach (near the junction of Highways 1 & 84). Bring lunch and liquids and be prepared for cool weather. Heavy rain cancels. Beginners welcome. Leader: Alan Hopkins 415.664.0983. \$ (\*)

## Arrowhead Marsh, Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline

### Sunday, October 13

We will explore the Bay and the Mitigation Marsh area of MLK Regional Shoreline. There should be shorebirds and waterbirds. Meet at 9 a.m. for a half-day trip. Take 880 to Hegenberger, turn right onto Hegenberger, right on Doolittle, right to Swan Way, left into the park driveway. Beginners welcome. Rain cancels. Leaders: Lillian Fujii and Steve Hayashi 510.236.4167 steveandlil@worldnet.att.net.

Trips marked with [\$] go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a [\*].



## **Pelagic Seabirding Trip, Monterey Bay**

**Sunday, October 13, 20**

This is the optimum time of year for pelagic birding in Monterey Bay. The numbers and variety of seabirds are at a peak and rarities are a distinct possibility. Trip runs from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Four experienced leaders aboard. \$65 per person with a percentage going to the American Bird Conservancy's Albatross Action Campaign. Call to register 831.375.4658; further information at [www.montereybaywhalewatch.com](http://www.montereybaywhalewatch.com). Additional trip October 20.

## **Fifteenth Annual Pt. Reyes National Seashore All-Day Birding Blitz**

**Saturday, October 19**

This is a joint activity of GGAS and the National Park Service. This fast-paced multi-habitat trip covers the Five Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley, producing approximately 100 species. Meet at 8 a.m. at Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot (about 3.5 miles south of Olema on Hwy 1). Bring food, water and layered clothing for variable weather. Leader: Leon Abrams 415.453.9980 (w) or 510.843.4107 (h). (\*)

## **Landels Hill—Big Creek Reserve**

**Saturday, October 26**

Come join this exclusive walk on a private 4000+ acre ecological reserve owned by private entities and UC Santa Cruz. Over 140 species of land and shore/sea birds have been identified here, including Condor #90. The reserve, lying 50 miles south of Carmel on Hwy #1, is not generally open to the public. Members of the Audubon

Society are invited on this rare occasion to explore this beautiful area. Space is limited to minimize impact to the reserve. Participants should wear sturdy walking shoes and be prepared to walk a moderate distance on dirt roads or maintained trails. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Baker's Square Restaurant at the intersection of Hwy #1 and Rio Rd. Bring liquids and lunch. We will return to Monterey early afternoon. Leaders: Rick Fournier and Terry Hallock. Contact Terry to reserve space at 408.625.1477 or [tincupmom@aol.com](mailto:tincupmom@aol.com).


## **Pt. Reyes National Seashore Saturday, October 26**

Meet at 8 a.m. at Drakes Monument at Drakes Beach. We will be looking for late migrants. The trip will continue

as long as we are seeing birds. Bring water, lunch and warm and wet weather gear. Leader: Hugh Cotter 415.931.7736.

## **Arrowhead Marsh, Alameda County**

**Saturday, November 9**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. for a three-hour stroll. We should see lots of shorebirds, perhaps Clapper Rail and Burrowing Owl. Take I-880 south to Hegenberger and then west on Hegenberger to Doolittle Drive. Right on Doolittle, right onto Swan Way. Left into the park. Drive to end of newly paved road and the Arrowhead Marsh parking lot. Bring a scope if you have one. All levels of birders welcome. Leader: Courtenay Peddle 510.532.8911 (please don't call after 9 p.m.); [capeddle@there.net](mailto:capeddle@there.net) 

## **New Saltwater Bird Identification Class**

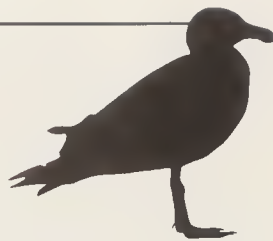
Hone your birding skills in a five-session workshop on saltwater birds led by Courtenay Peddle. Courtenay is a long-time East Bay birder who has spent thousands of hours honing his own water bird skills at the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Park.

This GGAS workshop will start with an orientation meeting **7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29** at the GGAS office. The other four sessions will be two-hour weekend field trips to East Bay wetlands—Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline in Oakland, Hayward Regional Shoreline, and Alameda's Elsie Roemer Wildlife Sanctuary. Among the birds studied will be ducks, geese, terns, gulls, waders (egrets and herons) and shorebirds.

The workshop is geared toward intermediate birders. A scope is useful but not necessary. Enrollment is limited to 15 people so that each participant can receive personal attention. The cost is \$60 per person; no refund for missed classes or field trips. To register, send a check in the amount of \$60.00 made payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society to the GGAS Office at 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. We can also enroll you through VISA or MasterCard if you call the GGAS office during business hours. Our number is 510.843.2222. Unless the information is on your check, please also provide your phone numbers and e-mail addresses. The class is limited to GGAS members.

# PROGRAMS

Anne McTavish



You will notice some changes to the list we presented in the September Gull. We have corrected some errors, filled in some holes, and rearranged a bit to accommodate schedules. Look for more information in future issues of the Gull and on the GGAS Web site at [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org).

## San Francisco

The San Francisco meetings are held at the County Fair building at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco. We meet socially at 7 p.m. The programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

### September 13

Allan Ridley: "Anatomy of Flight"

Ever marvel at birds in flight, as you stand on the earth's surface looking up... in envy? In this presentation we will contrast our human structure with the anatomy of birds; examining bones, feathers, wings, lungs and overall conformation. Then, with the basics of structure in mind we will view video of birds in flight, illustrating the dynamics of flight in several diverse species.

### October 11

Arden Danekas: "Zambia – Solar Eclipse and Local Sights"

Arden Danekas became a solar eclipse follower in 1979 and his pursuit of this passion has taken him to six continents. When the eclipse is over, he then travels the country. In Zambia he met wonderful people and saw incredible scenery and astonishing wildlife – including the Shoebill. This promises to be an interesting slideshow and glimpse into life in Zambia. [www.zambiatourism.com](http://www.zambiatourism.com)

### November 8

Alan Hopkins: "San Francisco Cosmopolitan Ecosystems"

### December 27

San Francisco Christmas Bird Count

### January 10

Stephen Shunk: "Wonders of Northern Alberta Odyssey: Bird Life of the Boreal Forest"

### February 14

TBA

### March 14

Joe Morlan: "Workings of the California Bird Records Committee"

### April 11

Alvaro Jaramillo: "Birds of Cuba"

### May 9

Douglas Long: "Bird Conservation in New Zealand"



*A Canadian goose drawn by a student from the Martin Luther King Jr. Wetlands Education Project taught by GGAS staff*

## Berkeley

The Berkeley meetings are held at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, (between Solano and Marin). We meet socially at 7 p.m. The programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

### September 19

Dan Cooper: "Important Bird Areas Program"

Audubon, as the Partner Designate for BirdLife International, is working to identify a network of sites that provide critical habitat for birds. This effort, known as the Important Bird Areas Program (IBA), recognizes that habitat loss and fragmentation are the most serious threats facing populations of birds across America and around the world. The IBA program is a global effort to identify areas that are most important for maintaining bird populations, and focus conservation efforts at protecting these sites. [www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html)

### October 24

Jim Shea: "Swainson's Hawks and Other Critters of Butte Valley" plus "Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Radio Telemetry Program"

A retired physicist, Jim Shea describes himself as a casual birdwatcher, but he has a special passion for hawks. He has been a volunteer for GGRO for 6 seasons. He has also been a Forest Service volunteer in Butte Valley helping with Swainson's Hawk studies. [www.ggro.org](http://www.ggro.org)

### November 21

Joelle Buffa: "Seabirds & Seasons of the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge"

### December 15

Oakland Christmas Bird Count

### January 16

Stephen Shunk: "Magic of Malheur: Oasis in the Great Basin Desert"

### February 20

Robin Grossinger: "The Importance of Landscape History in Current Conservation Planning in San Francisco Bay Area"

### March 20

Jay Withgott: "Biodiversity and Conservation in Sonora, Mexico"

### April 17

Daniel Edelstein: "The Miracle of Migration: The Amazing Nomadic Lives of Birds & Other Animals"

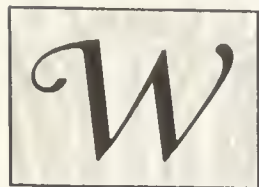
### May 15

TBA



# Education Volunteers Bring Students to Wildlife

by Amiko Mayeno and Tsahai Codner



When students first come on a GGAS field trip, many of them fear that the birds and squirrels might attack them, and they are afraid of touching the marsh mud. This is understandable, as many of them have never before experienced a close encounter with wildlife and their habitat. Initially, the wildlife and children often seem like two separate entities, but the volunteers provide the excitement and warmth that makes everything connect and the students light up. Before long, they are happily digging in the mud for invertebrates, enthusiastically searching for the endangered California Clapper Rail, and voluntarily getting their hands dirty, cleaning up the shoreline and restoring the salt marsh habitat or the California Least Tern's nesting ground.

This year GGAS volunteers made it possible for over 3,400 students and family members to receive environmental education in Alameda and Oakland. This represents 1,400 more participants than the previous year.

Thanks to these volunteers, the ever-widening educational gap between low- and high-income communities is being bridged; new friendships between various ethnic and cultural groups are being forged; and the seeds of new environmental stewards are germinating.

A thundering applause goes to Audre Newman who has made the GGAS' international pen pal project possible. Due to her efforts, approximately 400 students from Mexico and

the U.S. regularly exchange letters about birds, conservation and their own culture. In addition to coordinating the letter-writing project, Audre consults on curriculum, sits on the education committee, and leads programs in the classroom and field. Audre's positive attitude and enthusiasm for the program have kept spirits high among staff and volunteers.

A special thank you to Kay Bloom for giving so much of her time. Kay always stepped in to fill the greatest need. Her kind and gentle spirit continues to inspire us all.

Since the program's inception in 1998, Mike Riehter has continued to bring laughter, joy and a strong back to the program.

No matter how busy John Luther is, he always makes himself available to consult on the program's curriculum development. John's expertise on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats is only the beginning of what he has given. He pitches in wherever he is needed, from moving furniture to program advocacy. John's warmth and generosity seem endless and infuse the entire program.

Mica Sanchez has been essential to getting our community programming off the ground. Mica takes the time to make a special connection with every child that he encounters at the recreation centers and libraries.

GGAS' volunteer environmental educators are a knowledgeable, loving, creative and dedicated group of people. They have inspired a deep understanding of the interbeing of humans,

wildlife and the environment. So, on behalf of the students, teachers, parents, community and the Golden Gate Audubon Society we extend a heartfelt thank you. We couldn't have done it without you.

## Adult Volunteers

### Environmental Educators:

Judy Allen, Ingrid Baur, Marj Blackwell, Kay Bloom, Howard Brownson, Avis Cherepy, Stacie Chun, Tim Cleere, Christie Davis, Leslie Dinkin, Leora Feeney, Ro Fipps, Pat Gannon, Michale Glennon, Joshua Hollander, Cathy Hubbard, John Luther, Audre Newman, Janet Pomeroy, Christie Olivas, Mike Richter, Mica Sanchez, Alexis Smith, Maria Steinman, Rene Urriola, Robin Wellwood.

### High School Student Mentors

The GGAS was fortunate to have extremely hard-working and caring high school student mentors who gave their time to help lead activities in the classroom and on field trips. The elementary teachers often commented that the high school mentors were a valuable component of the program.

A special thanks to Amanda Irvine, who donated the most hours of the Encinal High School mentors. Amanda's boundless energy and limitless joy made each program she participated in exciting and fun for all involved.

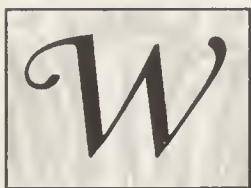
Congratulations to Idona Johnson for having donated the most hours of the Castlemont High School students. Idona's pleasant and easygoing attitude helped create a friendly and peaceful atmosphere for the elementary students she taught.

### Castlemont High School Mentors:

LaRon Aikens, Shamee Braddy, Yvonne Brand, Lakeesha Calhoun, Lin Chan, Michael Chan, Hua Cheng, Dana Chilress, Avery Crayton, Lenard Goo, Setoyah Gordon, Karla Herrera, Idona Johnson, Tremaye Jones, Karema Lamar, Euniece Law, Hieu Le, Andres Martinez, Tiffany

*continued on page 7*

# Chapter Wish List



We're starting a new column in the Gull this month: our Chapter Wish List.

This is a list of things and people that we greatly need. If you can help us out or have questions, please call our office at 510.843.2222.

## Volunteers

GGAS volunteers make us one of the Bay Area's leading conservation, environmental education and birding organizations. Please consider joining our large and enthusiastic group of volunteers who do good things and feel great doing them.

GGAS needs a **Treasurer on our Board of Directors**. Dave Shunick, our Treasurer for the last two years, is moving on. Dave has done amazing things for our organization and we are very grateful to him. He has set up our financial record-keeping so that our new Treasurer will have an easy time keeping things in order. The Treasurer attends 10 Board meetings per year, helps prepare our budget and makes sure our financial bookkeeping is in order. The treasurer's position is a critical one for GGAS. We need you!


Our **Hospitality Chair** for many years, Ann Howard, has retired. Please consider becoming the GGAS Hospitality Chairperson. The position involves organizing our Christmas Bird Count dinners, providing refreshments at our nature programs and helping out at GGAS special events. It's a rewarding experience. You meet a lot of very

nice people, you'll have a great time and you'll help make our events pleasant for everyone. GGAS pays for all the costs—this requires only your time and interest. We also need two people to join the **Hospitality Committee** for the monthly meetings, one each in San Francisco and Berkeley. Hospitality Committee members attend the meetings to bring and set up refreshments, help with clean-up, and handle GGAS sale items such as books and cards.

We are in great need of a **volunteer who will help us keep our Conservation Page on our GGAS Web site current**. Our conservation activists are so busy they don't have time to review our Web page. This volunteer would visit our Web page on a monthly basis and ask our Web master to delete old issues and put in new conservation news. The volunteer would write the new articles or get them from our conservation advocates.

**Office volunteers.** Office volunteers work a three-hour shift once per week during our office hours of Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. The tasks are easy. You'll help us answer the phone and field questions about birds (we have cheat sheets and books to help you answer tough questions so it's a great learning opportunity, and if you can't find the answer no one gets upset). You also will greet people when they come to the office and help with mailings and other office activities in our very congenial and uplifting atmosphere.

## Materials

We need a **recent-model color printer for PC computers**. If you are upgrading your equipment and want to get rid of a good quality color printer please let us know! Your donations is tax-deductible. 

## Donations

Thank you for your continued response to our Save Gateway Valley fundraising appeal.

**Golden Eagle (\$1000 or more)**  
Maggie Seely

**Clapper Rail (\$100 to \$200)**  
Kay Loughman  
Pepi Ross

**Gifts (to \$100)**  
Cindy Jane Cobb, Tim Daly (new GGAS member donation), John and Lynn Dixon, Norman C. Frank, Leslie Friedman, Madelon Halpern (Bird Box), Carol L. Hanson (new GGAS member donation), R. Hosemann, Christine R. Mueller (new GGAS member donation), M. D. Paley, Mrs. H. T. (Marguerite) Richter, Rona Weintraub

**In Memoriam**  
In memory of Florence Hart Kimball  
John and Mary Hart  
Lorraine Hart and husband,  
N. Del Kimball

**Binoculars for Latin America Committee**  
Pete Goldman

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest, we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS office for more information. Our phone number is 510.843.2222. Thanks.



# Fall Bird Seed Sale

Friday and Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

More birds are coming! More birds are coming! So stock up on the quality Volkman seed sold at the GGAS office.

Not only will you have the opportunity to pick up seed outside the normal office hours, but you can also see our new office across the hall from where we were before (same Suite G address).

Just fill out the seed and feeder order form below and mail it to the GGAS office with your check or credit card information by Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope so your order confirmation can be mailed back to you.

In filling out your order, please take advantage of the 10 percent GGAS Member merchandise discount by signing up for the new one-year \$20 GGAS supporting membership described in more detail in the September Gull.

Most of our native birds favor either sunflower seeds (chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, White-crowned sparrow, purple and house finches) or niger seed (goldfinches, pine siskins and chickadees). If you have a question about which kind of seed to buy, give us a call at the GGAS office at 510.843.2222.

While you are at the office, check out the standard field guides, bird song cassettes and CDs, plus new books such as:

- Passion for Birds
- Sibley's Life of Birds
- Stokes Field Guide to Birds of the West
- Treasury of North American Birdlore

We will have plenty of extra seed on hand during the sale, so come down to the office even if you did not place an order.

This sale is for GGAS and National Audubon members only.

## GGAS FALL BIRD SEED ORDER FORM

Order and Prepay by Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>  
Pick-Up Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> (3 to 6 p.m.) or  
Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> (9 a.m. to noon) at the GGAS Office

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

SEED		PRICE	QTY	AMOUNT
GGAS Own Mix	20#	\$ 9.50		
Contains red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed	50#	\$ 22.75		
Volkman Premium	20#	\$ 9.50		
Contains only red and white Millet and black oil sunflower seed	50#	\$ 22.75		
Black Oil Sunflower Seed	25#	\$ 11.00		
	50#	\$ 19.25		
Black Oil Sunflower Chips	25#	\$ 24.00		
No hulls, no mess				
Niger (Thistle) Seed	5#	\$ 7.25		
	20#	\$ 27.25		
Suet Cake (Hi-Energy, 11.75 oz.)		\$ 2.00		
FEEDERS				
Duncraft Seed Tube Feeder 16"		\$ 30.25		
Squirrel-Proof Tube Feeder		\$ 57.00		
Thistle Stocking		\$ 3.25		
Hummingbird (window)		\$ 10.75		
Hummingbird (16 oz. bottle)		\$ 13.00		
Hummingbird (saucer style, 16 oz.)		\$ 16.75		
Suet Cage (2" x 5" x 5")		\$ 6.00		

SUB-TOTAL (Tax incl. in price) \_\_\_\_\_  
Less GGAS Member 10% Discount \_\_\_\_\_  
(applies to new GGAS Member-sign up on line below)  
TOTAL less 10% Discount \_\_\_\_\_  
Sign me up as GGAS Member—Dues (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation to GGAS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL PAYMENT \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with payment and self-addressed, stamped envelope to:  
GGAS, San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

continued from page 5


Moore, Lute Okusi, Chad Phelps, Margaret Tisdale, Alma Villa, Nicole Wanzo, Rozina Wiley, Jasmine Williams, Jesse Woods, Rilla Wyatt.

### Encinal High School Mentors:

Luil Aklilu, Edward Asejo, Roderick Baisa, Daniel Dole, Jasper Figueroa, Genevieve Freking, Katie Garchar, Troy Gennis, Herman Hernandez, Amanda Irvine, Laura Jarratt,

Abraham Kinfu, Jerry Le, Lee Le, Mathew Middleton-Rice, Jayme Miles, Amelia Oliver, Riza Ramos, Aide Rodriguez, Rodolfo Roma, Helen Sega, Stephen Silverman, Mathew Stevenson, Alex Tenette, Calvin Tran, Khoa Tran, Veronica Welch, Wayne Woodliff.

This project is conducted in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District, the Oakland Unified School

District, and the College of Alameda. It is made possible through generous contributions from the Coastal Conservancy, Youth in Wilderness, the East Bay Community Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Flora Foundation, Afton Crooks, and Joyce and Gort Davis. 

# The Impact of More Ferry Service on the Bay

Patricia Eckhardt

**I**n 1999, the State created the Water Transit Authority (WTA) to plan an expanded ferry system for San Francisco Bay. Since then, the WTA has been developing its proposal to expand service on existing ferry routes and to establish new routes. GGAS' Conservation Committee is participating in an advisory group to the WTA.

## Environmental Concerns

Although ferries have an allure that cars and buses on jammed roads and bridges do not, they present numerous environmental challenges. Of particular concern is the WTA's proposal to site one of the new ferry terminals on the Berkeley waterfront, either near the Berkeley Pier or at the foot of Gilman Street. Either location would result in significant impacts to the Eastshore State Park. A terminal would be built at one of these sites, along with a parking lot or ramp adequate for about 600 cars, resulting in significant habitat destruction. Making increased ferry service feasible requires large numbers of riders, which will mean heavy traffic. The wildlife areas of the park—including the Berkeley Meadow if a terminal is located at the Berkeley Pier—would be seriously affected by traffic going to and from the terminal.

Other concerns about a Berkeley ferry involve the impacts to the Bay. Dredging would be needed at the terminal site, resulting in water quality problems, causing destruction of the en-

vironment of bottom-dwelling organisms, and raising questions about disposal locations for the dredged material. Also, operation of the ferries in the Eastshore State Park waters would be a major disruption to birds in the area. The Park planners consider these waters so sensitive to migratory birds that even small recreational craft may not be allowed in some areas for half of each year. Having ferries coming and going—possibly at 15-minute intervals year-round—is not consistent with such a sensitive wildlife area.



*A ferry heads across the Bay to San Francisco*

The WTA has written a draft Implementation and Operations Plan (IOP) for the expanded ferries that identifies other environmental concerns, including potential impacts to whales, seals and sea lions, and identifies some possible mitigation. In addition, the WTA acknowledges in the IOP that increased ferries could be a serious threat to rafting birds that use the Bay for resting. Avoiding the ferries could cause fatigue in these birds, in turn resulting in decreased reproduction. The IOP states that impacts to rafting birds have not been adequately evaluated due to the

short timeframe available for developing the Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and therefore further studies are needed. Similarly, the IOP includes a statement that more research is needed to evaluate impacts to clapper rails from ferry wakes, which might swamp nests, destroy eggs and kill chicks.

## How You Can Help

Comments are due on the EIR and IOP by October 31. Please mail your comments to: WTA, 120 Broadway, San Francisco, 94111, ATTN: Steve Castleberry. The title of the DEIR is "Expansion of Ferry Transit Service in the San Francisco Bay Area." Please write the WTA and tell them that the Gilman Street ferry terminal would have significant impacts due to the need for dredging and because of the large number of water birds in and around that location. Also please tell them that the Port Sonoma ferry terminal would have non-mitigable impacts because of its impacts on endangered species such as the California Clapper Rail and because of the large amount of tidal marsh located at the site. Finally, tell them that because ferry impacts to rafting ducks has not been adequately evaluated, and because these impacts maybe very significant, the DEIR should not be approved until further work on this issue has been completed.

The DEIR can be seen on the web at [www.watertransit.org](http://www.watertransit.org) or requested at 415-291-3377. 🐦



# BACKYARD BIRDER: SCENTS-ABILITY

Meg Pauletich



**F**or centuries, controversy has been raging on birds' ability to smell. Well, maybe not "raging," but no one has been able to agree on the extent to which birds rely upon their sense of smell for finding food, recognizing mates or locating their nesting sites. No doubt this is due to the fact that experiments have shown that the sense of smell varies a great deal between bird species. It is extremely difficult to measure a sense of smell in animals and birds because olfaction is a highly subjective sense. What smells "good" to humans may be horrific to other species. And even among humans there is a wide variation. How many times have you suffered because someone is wearing far too much of her favorite perfume while it gives you a horrible headache?

In the 1960s, Betsy Bang conducted anatomical studies at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. Her tests showed that in 23 different species, birds had the capability to smell just fine, thank you. These birds have a mucous lining in the nasal passages for odor molecules to stick to; there are nerves to carry these signals to a pair of olfactory bulbs; and there are nerves which connect these bulbs to the brain. A few years later, Bernice Wenzel, a behavioral psychologist who has done landmark studies on birds' sense of smell, showed that birds' olfactory nerves "lit up" when exposed to different odors.

Once it had been shown that birds


CAN smell things, the next question was how do we know what they do with this knowledge on a day-to-day basis? Wenzel proved that New Zealand Kiwi used smell to locate food. In an aviary, Wenzel taught the birds to feed from buried aluminum tubes. Then she sank tubes into the ground, some filled with dirt and others with a smelly concoction of steak, raisins and other goodies. The Kiwis performed admirably, locating the tubes of food 100 percent of the time!

The best example of a bird finding food with one's nose is our Turkey Vulture. John James Audubon tried an experiment, placing a deerskin full of hay out in the open. This quickly attracted a vulture who had located it with vision only to find it had been duped. When Audubon hid a hog under some brush and no bird found the odiferous bait, he concluded that smell wasn't used to locate food. It was later surmised that his error was in the bait: he used a really rotten hog. It seems that vulture gourmands prefer their meals between one and four days ripe! Another possibility is that Audubon was tempting Black Vultures rather than Turkey Vultures, and the former do not seem to use mainly vision to find food. They even follow Turkey Vultures around to find food for them! Kenneth E. Stage of the L. A. County Museum created experiments with hidden dead animals and Turkey Vultures which showed the birds' unerring ability to find food using the sense of smell alone. He also found that North

American Condors and Black Vultures relied mainly upon eyesight, using smell only minimally to locate carrion.

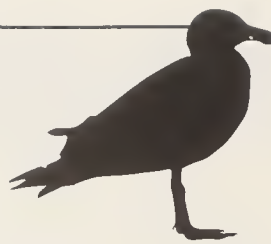
Tube-nosed sea birds have remarkably large olfactory bulbs which help them locate their favorite meal, krill. These tiny crustaceans gather where an upwelling of currents create the growth of phyto-plankton. Because seals and penguins find krill equally yummy, they inadvertently help the birds locate the krill as well. As the krill is eaten, compounds are released which are irresistible to the birds' olfactory senses and lead them to food.

Other uses for a sense of smell include finding one's own nest or burrow in a huge colony of sea birds, finding one's own colony at sea on foggy days and nights, and locating one's own chick. Then there's always courtship. The Crested Auklet, a small gray sea-bird, smells like ripe tangerines! During courtship, the pair rubs their bills along each other's necks where the citrus scent is strongest, suggesting that the scent is a type of bird pheromone (a chemical used for sexual communication). Since Auklets live on foggy, rocky islands where waves crash below, perhaps they can't rely on hearing and vision to get around. A sense of smell comes in handy under those conditions.

Great Horned Owls don't seem to have ANY sense of smell since one of their delicacies is a skunk dinner. However, maybe to them a skunk's aroma starts them salivating! Maybe that will be the next experiment—if the scientist can stand to perform it. 

# OBSERVATIONS

August 1-31, 2002  
Jay Withgott



**A**ugust is the month for migrating shorebirds and for pelagic species, and this month's reports were heavy on those two groups of birds. Meanwhile, the push of migrant and vagrant passerines that always blossoms with such excitement in September and early October had barely started by the end of August; the first real fallouts occurred at Outer Pt. Reyes and in San Francisco on Aug. 30-31, with only a smattering of interesting landbird reports before then. Most notable this period were two species found just outside our area (the nine counties ringing San Francisco Bay) — a Streaked Shearwater seen in Mendocino Co. waters, and a Crested Caracara near Monterey.

## Loons to Ducks

Astonishing this time of year was a Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) seen Aug. 17 from a SJPT out of Fort Bragg, MEN, 1/8-mile offshore from Juan Creek (DS). Black-footed Albatrosses around the Farallons, SF, numbered up to 32 on an Aug. 11 trip, while up to 75 were seen in SCZ and MTY Co. waters, Aug. 5 & 7 (SJPT).

The most exciting pelagic find of the month was a Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) viewed well for 45 min. from a SJPT on Aug. 17 off Fort Bragg, MEN. This species breeds off Japan and flies to the sw Pacific for the winter, but a handful of records now exist for California. This month's bird was 6 miles offshore among thousands of birds near two shrimp boats, highlighting a day that DS termed "truly spectacular ... a standout day in the pelagic history books." Also among the 6

shearwater species of that trip were 1 Flesh-footed Shearwater and 1 out-of-season Short-tailed Shearwater. High counts for other shearwaters in August were 10 Buller's, 150 Pink-footed, and over 100,000 Sooties on the Aug. 24 SJPT from Monterey, MTY. Also on the 24<sup>th</sup>, but from land, a Black-vented Shearwater sheared by the mouth of Tunitas Creek, SM (RSTh). On Aug. 8, a Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) was recorded on Monterey Bay, MTY (SJPT).

Ashy and Black Storm-Petrels were reported from numerous pelagic trips, and 2 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen on an Aug. 10 SJPT to Cordell Bank, SON/MRN (DS). On Aug. 27 hawk-watchers on Hawk Hill, Marin Headlands, MRN, spotted an immature Booby, possibly Red-footed, flying below them adjacent to Kirby Cove (AF, fide JM).

In the summering waterfowl department, Lake Merced's by-now-thoroughly-domesticated White-fronted Goose spent the summer in SF, and several pairs of Lesser Scaup raised broods at Sunnyvale WPCP, SCL (MR). A Redhead was at Drake's Beach, PRNS, Aug. 14 (RS), and a female Hooded Merganser was at Corte Madera, MRN, Aug. 16 (DW). More surprising, though, was an adult male Harlequin Duck discovered at Coyote Point CP Aug. 27 (RSTh), and seen through at least the 30<sup>th</sup>. The bird was molting and may have been present undetected all summer. Two more male Harlequins apparently summered down the coast at Monterey Harbor, MTY.

## Raptors to Alcids

From the Marin Headlands, MRN, a juvenile Bald Eagle was seen Aug. 6 and a Prairie Falcon Aug. 7 (TB), while other Prairie Falcons flew over Hayward Reg.

Shoreline, ALA, Aug. 10 (TR, CG), and Alviso, SCL, Aug. 31 (MM). But the most excitement was caused by a Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) found n. of the town of Marina, MTY, on Aug. 11 (RS, oob), a bird native to s. Texas, Mexico, and further south. If accepted by the CBRC, this would be the state's first Caracara (although a different bird was also found near Santa Barbara this summer). However, with this species there is always the question of captive origin, so the debate is on. Regardless of the eventual decision, many area birders were thrilled to see this unique and stunning raptor.

Now, on to the shorebirds! ... Three Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported: a juvenile at Shollenberger Park, SON, Aug. 11 (DAs); an adult at Redwood Shores, SM, Aug. 5-11 (RSTh; oob); and a juvenile at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, Aug. 21 (SK). Numerous Lesser Yellowlegs were reported from MRN and SCL, and single Solitary Sandpipers were reported from Pescadero Cr., SM, Aug. 8 (RSTh); Limantour Beach, PRNS, Aug. 17 (RS); and Drake's Estero, PRNS, MRN, Aug. 28 (JW), as well as from BUT and MON. Three Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) appeared at the Farallons, SF. The first arrived Aug. 17 and was found dead the next day, possibly the victim of a Peregrine. Then on Aug. 20, 2 more were spotted. This makes 7 records for the site, 3 of which have died (PP). West Coast Semipalmated Sandpipers are always tricky to identify, but singles were reported in August from Sunnyvale WPCP, SCL, Aug. 2 (BR, FV); Ravenswood OSP, SM, Aug. 3 (RSTh); and Limantour Beach, PRNS, MRN, Aug. 17-21 (RS; SK). Two were on the Farallons, SF, Aug. 20 (PP), and 1 or 2 birds were at Crissy Field, SF, Aug. 3-20 (HC; PS, ME, ASH). Twenty-four Baird's Sandpipers were seen at 8 locations in the 9-county area. Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Limantour Beach, PRNS, MRN, Aug. 17 & 29 (RS; TBr, LC); at Sunnyvale WPCP, SCL,



Aug. 15-20 (AE; oob); and at Alviso, SCL, Aug. 29-31 (BR, FV; MM). A Stilt Sandpiper appeared at State and Spreckles Sts. in Alviso, SCL, Aug. 17-31 (MR; oob). In MEN Co., the month's only Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found at Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, Aug. 22-23 (DT). Ruffs/Reeves were found at State and Spreckles in Alviso, SCL, on Aug. 11-17 (AW; oob); at Doran RP at Bodega Bay, SON, Aug. 25-26 (BB, RM; oob); and at Limantour Beach, PRNS, MRN, Aug. 28 (DR, MS, ES). Red-necked Phalaropes appeared at coastal and Bayside water spots, with a high of 2100 at Sunnyvale WPCP on Aug. 11 (MM).

Among larids, 16 South Polar Skuas were reported from the 8 pelagic trips that posted reports publicly. All 3 jaeger species were frequently reported, with a high for Long-tailed Jaegers of 35 birds on the Aug. 17 SJPT from Fort Bragg, MEN (DS). A Long-tailed was far inland at Mono L., MON, Aug. 24-25 (PJM). Sabine's Gulls were numerous on Monterey Bay, MTY/SCZ, with 250, 250, and 425 being recorded on SJPTs on Aug. 5, 7, and 8 (DS). Like Mono Lake's jaeger, a single Sabine's Gull showed up here on the 24<sup>th</sup> (KN, fide PJM). Five Common Terns showed up at 4 sites in SCL, SF, and SM, Aug. 11-31. The Aug. 8 SJPT on Monterey Bay noted a high of 84 Arctic Terns (DS). Four Black Terns flew past Coyote Pt. CP, SM, Aug. 19 (RSTh), while 1 bird at Sunnyvale WPCP on the 17<sup>th</sup> eventually turned into 4 by the 29<sup>th</sup> (CLo, AG, mob). Black Skimmers wandered the Bay, being seen as far north as the Berkeley Marina, ALA, Aug. 22 (BF, oob), and the Martinez Shoreline, CC, Aug. 17 (SH, CH, CL, LL).

A sickly Common Murre was found at Byxbee Park, SCL, Aug. 29 (TM; MR, MM). But better news was that in Purisima Cr. Reg. OSP, SM, a fledgling Marbled Murrelet was discovered Aug. 30; this is the first confirmation of breeding at the northernmost site for the Santa Cruz Mts. population (CR, fide DLSu).

## Wood Warbler Sightings

### Virginia's Warbler

Aug. 20	SE Farallon, SF	PP
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### Canada Warbler

Aug. 28	Palomar Bird Obs, MRN	fide KH
Aug. 30	OPR, PRNS, MRN	RS
Aug. 31	Mt. Davidson, SF	DA

**Abbreviations for Observers:** DA, David Armstrong; DAs, Dick Ashford; BB, Betty Burridge; TB, Tim Baer; TBr, Tony Briggs; HC, Hugh Cotter; LC, Les Chibana; ND, Nathan Dias; AE, Al Eisner; ME, Mark Eaton; AF, Allen Fish; BF, Brian Fitch; AG, Andy Gibb; CG, Claire Gallagher; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; CH, Claudia Hein; KH, Keith Hansen; SH, Scott Hein; SHa, Steve Hampton; SK, Sandy Koonce; CL, Cindy Lieurance; CLo, Calvin Lou; LL, Leslie Lieurance; JM, Joe Morlan; MM, Michael Mammoser; PJM, Peter Metropulos; RM, Roger Marlow; TM, Tom Moutoux; DN, David Nelson; KN, Kristie Nelson; PP, Peter Pyle;

BR, Bob Reiling, CR, Cindy Roessler, DR, Don Reinberg; MR, Mike Rogers, TR, Toby Romer, DLSu, David Suddjian; DS, Debra Shearwater; ES, Emily Serkin; MS, Michael Stevenson; PS, Paul Saraceni; RS, Rich Stallcup; DT, Dorothy Tobkin, RSTh, Ronald S. Thorn; FV, Frank Vanslager, AW, Anna Wilcox, DW, David Wimpfheimer, JW, Jeffrey Wilkinson, MZ, Matt Zlatunich

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; CC, Contra Costa Co., County; CP, County Park; Cr, Creek; L, Lake; MEN, Mendocino; MON, Mono; MRN, Marin; n./s./e./w = north/south/east/west; OPR, Outer Pt. Reyes; PRNS, Pt. Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park, SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SF, San Francisco; SJPT, Shearwater Journeys pelagic trip; SM, San Mateo; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; WPCP, Water Pollution Control Plant.

On Aug. 10 at Ano Nuevo S.R., 142 Marbled Murrelets were tallied on the water (PJM). A total of 16 Xantus' Murrelets were seen over the course of 3 SJPTs, Aug. 10-17, in waters in MRN, MEN, SF, and SON (DS). Tufted Puffins were seen on at least 6 pelagic trips.

## Doves to Thrashers


A White-winged Dove flew over Half Moon Bay, SM, Aug. 17 (RSTh), and at least 10 Black Swifts were reported from 3 locations. An imm. male Costa's Hummingbird was found at Mt. Davidson, SF, Aug. 21 (PS). In Davis, a Broad-tailed Hummingbird Aug. 27-30 made for a first Yolo Co. record (SHa; oob).

Willow Flycatchers were in the vanguard of fall migrants, beginning to trickle through after Aug. 17. A Hammond's Flycatcher was in ALA Aug. 28 (BF, oob) and a Gray Flycatcher at OPR, PRNS, MRN, on Aug. 30 (RS). This, a Red-eyed Vireo (RS), and a Blue-headed Vireo (DN) at OPR on Aug. 30 were among the first coastal fallout of vagrants for the autumn. A lingering Red-eyed Vireo pleased many observers at Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF, in the days after Aug. 13 (MZ; mob).

## Wood Warblers to Finches

Only a handful of eastern warblers were

reported in August; we will have to wait for September for the real push.

A Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) located at El Polin Spring in the Presidio, SF, was the top bird of an exciting migration day in the city at month's end, Aug. 31 (PS; ASH). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen Aug. 6 at Mt. Davidson, SF (PS) and Aug. 30 at OPR, MRN (RS). A Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) was also seen on the 31<sup>st</sup> in San Francisco, at East Wash (ND); the bird was an immature, which likely rules out the possibility of it being an escaped cage bird. And rounding out this month's report, a female Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared in the saltmarsh by the Sam Trans bus terminal in South San Francisco, SM, Aug. 20 (RSTh) ... but did it catch a bus here, or a plane from nearby SFO? 

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Mark your calendars now!

The Oakland Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2002. The San Francisco Count will be held Friday, December 27th. Details will be in next month's *Gull*.

## Help Wanted: Become a Volunteer Environmental Educator

If you enjoy being with kids and sharing their enthusiasm for the outdoors and their excitement when they see their first Red Tail Hawk, Clapper Rail or Least Tern, then you are a candidate for the GGAS environmental education program. No previous experience is necessary.


Volunteers are trained by GGAS staff and work with a team of naturalists, park rangers and high school student mentors. Activities take place at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland and the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, as well as in elementary school classrooms and schoolyards in Oakland and Alameda.



Students get hands-on experience

The classroom visits and field trips are held on weekdays, primarily in the morning hours. Volunteers are required to commit to a minimum of six hours per month.

Here's a wonderful chance to pass on your love of the natural world to children who are experiencing it for the first time and to help them become aware of the connection between human nature and the nature around them.

For more information: contact Audubon staff members Patti Garcia at 510.434.1898 or Tsahai Codner at 510.434.1927 or e-mail Tsahai at [Tcodner@audubon.org](mailto:Tcodner@audubon.org). 

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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